

REMARKS

The previous amendment was made to avoid argument about whether the claim preamble was part of the claims subject matter. The reference to a curable liquid in the preamble is not necessary and has now been deleted. As a result of the resulting elimination of the duplication in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, can be withdrawn.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over the newly cited Dammann patent. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The resin composition of the present invention is a liquid which is curable by, for example, ultraviolet radiation. The resin composition is a Michael addition reaction product of the Michael addition reactants which are a vinyl group containing compound, multifunctional acrylic ester, and β -dicarbonyl group containing compound or resin in which the β -dicarbonyl group has two activated hydrogen atoms in its methylene position. The Michael addition reactants are employed such that the equivalent ratio of the vinyl group of the vinyl group containing compound to the activated hydrogen atom is in the range of 0.01:1 to 0.9:1, and the equivalent ratio of all unsaturated groups in the vinyl group containing compound and multifunctional acrylic ester to the activated hydrogen is greater than 1.05:1.

The newly cited and applied Dammann patent relates to an improvement in several prior patents, including the Moy patent which was previously considering in rejecting claims in this application. See column 2, lines 1-24. The newly cited reference teaches a composition containing a Michael addition reaction product of a Michael

donor and Michael acceptor, formed in the presence of a new catalyst system comprising an epoxide moiety and a quaternary salt, as opposed to the base catalyst which had been used in Moy.

The current rejection is premised on the unwritten assumption that all of the glycidyl methacrylate used the reaction of this reference becomes a part of the Michael reaction product. But that assumption is not correct.

The reason the assumption is not correct is that the Dammann patent teaches at column 7, lines 8-15 that examples of epoxy moiety-containing compositions useful in the catalyst system includes glycidyl methacrylate and the quaternary salt part of the catalyst can be tetrabutyl ammonium bromide. It is further taught at lines 30 et seq., that the epoxy moiety-containing material can be added separately to the reaction mixture and will react to act to form the catalyst with the quaternary salt *in situ*. As the Examiner is aware, a catalyst, by definition, is a material which accelerates the reaction taking place between the reactants without entering into the reaction itself. In Dammann's Example 6 on which the rejection is particularly based, the glycidyl methacrylate and tetrabutyl ammonium bromide are added to the Michael acceptor and donor (being used in the proportions described in the passage bridging columns 6 and 7) before the reaction mixture was heated to the prescribed run temperature of 80°C. over a period of more than one hour. As stated at column 7, lines 31-33, the glycidyl methacrylate and tetrabutyl ammonium bromide react to form the catalyst, and were therefore not available to become a part of the reaction product when the run temperature was attained. It necessarily follows that the calculations proposed in paragraph 10 of the Office Action cannot be correct since they are based on assuming

that all of the glycidyl methacrylate becomes a part of the reaction product while Dammann teaches that does not happen.

In light of this very basic difference between the claimed invention and Dammann, no consideration of any other assertions made in the Office Action is necessary.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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